

# DEPARTMENT OF STATE

October 8, 1976

NO. 504



PRESS CONFERENCE BY  
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH  
SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM  
AT THE UNITED NATIONS  
OCTOBER 8, 1976

SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM: Ladies and gentlemen: I had a very helpful and interesting exchange of views with the Secretary of State. I am most grateful to him for coming here to give me the opportunity to discuss a number of important questions. We discussed, as you can imagine, the situation in southern Africa, and the efforts of the Secretary of State in this regard in connection with the dealings here in the United Nations and the Security Council. We discussed the situation in the Middle East and the possibilities for resuming the negotiating process. We also discussed the Cyprus question and the North-South battle. As I said before, this exchange of views was very useful and very helpful, and I think it best now that I give the floor to the Secretary of State.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We always value the opportunity to exchange views with the Secretary General, who has played such an important and distinguished role in all of the issues we have discussed. And I found the talk very, very helpful.

QUESTION: The Soviet Union has proposed that the Geneva Conference be held this month and next and the PLO participate in the meeting with (inaudible) status. Is that a (inaudible) proposal?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, we are studying the annual Soviet proposal on the Geneva Conference and we will give a formal reply in due course. There are many aspects of it that have proved difficult in the past and we will be studying it and give our replies in due course.

QUESTION: Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that our initiative in southern Africa is too late; had it been started earlier many lives would have been saved.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I don't know -- it is always easy after the event to make judgments. We thought we started it at the time when progress was likely. But I don't want to engage in a debate about what might have been possible earlier.

**For further information contact:**

QUESTION: Ian Smith said again that the terms of the perpetual peace plan for Rhodesia that you gave him (inaudible) you told him that the plans were approved by the front-line presidents. Could you clarify that for me?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I gave Ian Smith my best judgment of what would provide a framework for negotiation, and what might be acceptable. I don't think that any useful purpose is served now in doing anything other than to assemble a conference to give each side an opportunity to state their positions and then see how, under the guidance of the chairman, a solution can be found.

QUESTION: Are both sides going to the conference with the understanding that the terms Smith outlined are negotiable?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I believe that each side should now go to the conference. Obviously, a conference is called in order to have a negotiation, and my impression -- being in touch with all of the parties -- is that everybody understands the framework that is being developed.

QUESTION: The Foreign Minister of Nigeria said yesterday that he had the feeling that there was a package deal by which you had arranged with Vorster to cooperate in Rhodesia and in return you would not interfere with South African affairs in Namibia or in South Africa itself.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: His feeling is totally incorrect. There is no package deal. We are working, for example, on a program to get a conference assembled on Namibia. And I believe that progress is being made and that a conference can be assembled in the near future and that a firm date for Namibian independence can be established.

QUESTION: In the aftermath of the Ford-Carter debates and the Eastern European issue, the President has said that his policy is to support the aspirations of the people for independence in Eastern Europe. Does this apply also to the Ukraine?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think the President has stated our position clearly and I won't go into all the interpretations that can be given to it. My understanding is that he spoke of the nations of Eastern Europe.

QUESTION: You said some time ago that you thought a Namibian conference would be held in two weeks to a month. Is that still the timetable?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, it isn't for the United States to decide when such a conference could meet. We are in the process of discussing with all the interested parties the framework, which seems to us at this moment, to be attainable. I think if a consensus develops, a conference can be assembled within two or three weeks after that and I believe that progress is being made in creating such a consensus. I believe that it is possible to get a firm date for independence and an early date for a conference.

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